

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): An embroidery machine with a cap bill support device, the machine including a hat hoop base frame, the device comprising:

a bill hook capable of physical attachment to said cap bill; and

a base support including a lip hook, the base support secured to said hat hoop base frame, said base frame receiving said bill hook, thereby offering removable support of said cap bill when positioned adjacent to said hat hoop base frame.
2. (currently amended): A device as in claim 1, wherein said bill hook is pivotally mounted to said base support.
3. (currently amended): A device as in claim 1, wherein said bill hook includes a substantially "L" shaped arm including a foot enabling attachment to said cap bill.
4. (currently amended): A device as in claim 1, wherein said bill hook includes a clamp that is releaseably secured to said cap bill.
5. (currently amended): A device as in ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein said bill hook further includes an arm that is received by said ~~base support~~ lip hook.
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended): A device as in ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein said base support is comprised of a substantially flat plate ~~including a lip hook~~.

8. (original) A device as in claim 7, wherein said substantially flat plate includes at least one mounting hole, thereby enabling mounting of said substantially flat plate to a peripheral flange on said hat hoop base frame.
9. (original) A device as in claim 7, wherein said substantially flat plate is mounted adjacent to a visor bracket mounted on said hat hoop base frame.
10. (currently amended) A device as in ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, further comprising an ~~wherein said~~ arm is received being received by a lip hook said lip hook on a visor bracket, the visor bracket being mounted to said hat hoop base frame.
11. (currently amended) An embroidery machine of the type that is used in the embroidery of ~~headgear and other~~ products that have a ~~protrusion such as a~~ cap bill, the machine also including a hat hoop base frame and a hat rack, the improvement comprising:
 - a bill hook capable of physical attachment to said cap bill; and
 - a base support including a lip hook, the base support secured to said hat hoop base frame, said base frame receiving said bill hook, thereby offering removable support of said cap bill when positioned adjacent to said hat hoop base frame.
12. (currently amended) A machine as in claim 11, wherein said bill hook is pivotally mounted to said base support.
13. (currently amended) A machine as in claim 11, wherein said bill hook includes a substantially "L" shaped arm including a foot enabling attachment to said cap bill.
14. (currently amended) A machine as in claim 11, wherein said bill hook includes a clamp that is releaseably secured to said cap bill.

15. (currently amended) A machine as in ~~claim 14~~ claim 11, wherein said bill hook further includes an arm that is received by said ~~base support~~ lip hook.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A machine as in ~~claim 16~~ claim 11, wherein said base support is comprised of a substantially flat plate ~~including a lip hook~~.

18. (original) A machine as in claim 17, wherein said substantially flat plate includes at least one mounting hole, thereby enabling mounting of said substantially flat plate to a peripheral flange on said hat hoop base frame.

19. (original) A machine as in claim 17, wherein said substantially flat plate is mounted adjacent to a visor bracket mounted on said hat hoop base frame.

20. (currently amended) For use with an embroidery machine including a bill hook capable of physical attachment to a cap bill and a base support including a lip hook, the base support secured to a hat hoop base frame, an embroidery method comprising ~~A method of supporting a cap bill to facilitate the embroidery of a cap including the steps of:~~

~~providing an embroidery device including:~~

~~a bill hook capable of physical attachment to said cap bill; and~~

~~a base support secured to said hat hoop base frame, said base frame receiving said bill hook;~~

positioning a cap in said embroidery device adjacent to said hat hoop base frame;

displacing a portion of said cap bill toward said base support;

attaching said bill hook to said cap bill with said bill hook supported by said ~~base support~~ lip hook, thus maintaining said cap bill in a displaced orientation.